

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 SCS-06
CA-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 ACDA-12
/084 W

-----074824 101813Z /45

O 101650Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5256
INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N.A.
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SP
SUBJECT: PAMPLONA CLASHES CONTINUE BASQUE SPIRAL OF
VIOLENCE

REF: MADRID 7378

1. SUMMARY: THE TRAGIC DEGENERATION OF PAMPLONA'S
FAMOUS SAN FERMIN FESTIVAL INTO VIOLENCE, THOUGH NOT
DIRECTLY RELATED TO RECENT ACTS OF TERRORISM IN
THE BASQUE COUNTRY, FURTHER HEIGHTENS TENSIONS IN
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THE REGION AND, IF PAST PATTERNS HOLD, MAY WELL CON-
TRIBUTE TO FURTHER VIOLENCE. THIS SPIRAL OF TERRORISM/
VIOLENCE, TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF WHEN NOT PRECIPITATED BY
BASQUE EXTREMISTS, MAKES THE ALREADY KNOTTY TASK OF
GENERATING MAINSTREAM BASQUE SUPPORT FOR THE DRAFT
CONSTITUTION EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. AMCONSUL BILBAO
ADVISES THAT AS OF 1400 JULY 10, HE HAS RECEIVED NO RE-

PORTS OF INJURIES TO US CITIZENS IN THE PAMPLONA
DISTURBANCES. END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH IT HAD BEEN FEARED FOR THREE YEARS THAT THE SAN FERMIN FESTIVAL WOULD BECOME INCREASINGLY POLITICIZED AND VIOLENCE-RIDDEN, IT WAS NOT UNTIL A BULL RING SET-TO ON JULY 8 UNEXPECTEDLY BROUGHT A NERVOUS AND OVER-ZEALOUS ARMEE POLICE INTO THE ACT THAT THESE FEARS WERE REALIZED. RESPONDING TO O CONFRONTATION WITHIN THE BULL RING BETWEEN PRO-AMNESTY DEMONSTRATORS AND SOME OF THE SPECTATORS, A CONTINGENT OF ARMED POLICE REPORTEDLY CHARGED INTO THE RING FIRING SMOKE CANNISTERS AND RUBBER BULLETS INDIS-CRIMINATELY. IN THE ENSUING MELEE, DOZENS OF CIVILIANS REPORTEDLY WERE WOUNDED, AS WERE A NUMBER OF POLICEMEN. ONE OF THE CIVILIANS, A YOUTH (GERMAN RODRIGUEZ) SAID TO BELONG TO THE ULTRA-LEFT REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE (LCC), AND THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS (CC.OO.), LATER DIED FROM A BULLET WOUND TO THE HEAD.

3. CLASHES THEN CONTINUED OUTSIDE THE BULL RING, AND IN OTHER AREAS OF DOWNTOWN PAMPLONA THROUGHOUT THE EVENING. AT ABOUT 2230, A GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS MARCHED ON THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CIVIL GOVERNOR, PROTESTING THE OVERREACTION OF THE POLICE EARLIER
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IN THE DAY, EVEN ATTEMPTING UNSUCCESSFULLY TO STORM THE BUILDING. THERE REPORTEDLY WERE MORE INJURIES ON BOTH SIDES. A NUMBER OF CARS WERE BURNED, SHOP WINDOWS WERE SHATTERED, AND BARRICADES WERE ERECTED ACROSS SOME OF THE NAVARRESE CAPITAL'S DOWNTOWN STREETS.

4. CLASHES WOUND DOWN ON JULY 9, A TENSE CALM REPORT-EDLY RETURNED TO THE CITY, AND A REPORTED 150,000 TOURISTS DEPARTED PAMPLONA IN ALL DIRECTIONS. THE CIVIL GOVERNOR OF NAVARRE MET WITH POLITICAL LEADERS JULY 9 AND LATER TLD THE PRESS THAT THE INTERVENTON OF THE ARMED POLICE AT THE BULL RING HAD RESUUTEE FROM "A MISTAKEN INTERPRETATION OF ORDERS, AND HD BEEN UNFORTUNATE AND UNNECESSARY." THE PAMPLONA CITY GOVT, ALL OF THE MAJOR NAVARRESE PARTIES EXCEPT FRAGA'S AP, INCLUDING UCD, AND THE BASQUE GENERAL COUNCIL HAVE PROTESTED THE "DISPROPORTIONATE ACTION OF THE POLICE AND HAVE CALLED FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE JULY 8 EVENTS. IN MADRID, SUAREZ MET JULY 9 WITH FIRST VICE PRESIDENT/DEFENSE MINISTER GUTIERREZ MELLADO AND INTERIOR MINISTER MARTIN VILLA TO REVIEW THE SITUATION. MARTIN

VILLA OPENED AN INVESTIGATION OF THE MATTER AND MEAN-
WHILE ORDERED THREE COMPANIES OF POLICE REINFORCEMENTS
TO PAMPLONA.

5. ALTHOUGH THERE APPEARS TO BE NO DIRECT RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE PAMPLONA EVENTS AND RECENT ACTS OF TERRORISM
IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY, THE SAN FERMIN CLASHES MAY WELL
HELP TO FEED WHAT HAS BECOME THE WORST CYCLE OF POLITICAL
VIOLENCE IN THE REGION IN QUITE SOME TIME. THESE
TERRORIST ACTS INCLUDE:

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JOURNALIST JOSE MARIA PORTELL, CLAIMED LATER BY ETA
(REFTEL).

-- THE MACHINEGUNNING IN SAN JUAN DE LUZ (FRANCE) ON
JULY 2 OF FORMER ETA LEADER JUAN JOSE ETXABE AND HIS
WIFE. THE ASSAULT, WHICH LEFT ETXABE GRAVELY WOUNDED
AND HIS WIFE DEAD, HAS BEEN CLAIMED BOTH BY CALLERS
IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES AS ULTRA-RIGHTISTS (ALIANZA

APOSTOLICA ANTICOMUNISTA--AAA) AND AS MEMBERS OF ETA'

-- THE MURDER ON JULY 5 OF A YOUTH (DOMINGO MERINO)
IN ZARAUZ, GUIPUZCOA, CLAIMED LATER BY ETA.
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-- THE ASSASSINATION ON JULY 8 IN LEMONA, VIZCAYA,
OF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE JAVIER JAUREGUI, APPARENTLY BY
ETA.

6. THIS VIOLENCE CANNOT BUT COMPLICATE THE EFFORTS OF
THE GOVT, THE MAJOR PARTIES AND THE BASQUE PNV AIMED
AT CHARTING OUT SOME MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE CONSTITUTIONAL
FORMULATION ON BASQUE AUTONOMY RIGHTS. BETWEEN 10,000
AND 15,000 PEOPLE REPORTEDLY ATTENDED A PNV RALLY
JULY 9 IN THE HISTORIC BASQUE TOWN OF GUERNICA TO "DEBATE
AND STUDY" THE CONSTITUTION. THE PNV LEADERS IN
ATTENDANCE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE PARTY HAS REACHED NO
DECISION ON THE DOCUMENT, BUT TO THEIR CONSIDERABLE
CREDIT AT SUCH A TROUBLED JUNCTURE, MOST OF THE PNV
SPEAKERS REPORTEDLY MEASURED THEIR WORDS CAREFULLY.
WHILE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PRESIDENT CARLOS GARAICOECHEA
ATTACKED THE "PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC ORDER FORCES IN
EUZKADI" AS "AN AGGRESSION AND A HUMILIATION,"
PNV ELDER STATESMAN MANUEL DE IRUJO, SENATOR FOR
NAVARRE, APPEALED FOR "COMMON SENSE," AND PARTY
HEAVYWEIGHT JAVIER ARZALLUZ, DEPUTY FOR GUIPUZCOA,
IMPRESSED ON THE AUDIENCE THAT "WE ARE AT AN HISTORIC
MOMENT THAT WE SHOULD NOT WASTE...IF OUR HEARTS ARE
HOT, OUR HEADS SHOULD BE COOL AND OUR FEET SHOULD BE
PLANTED FIRMLY ON THE GROUND...NO ONE SHOULD COUNT ON
US TO HELP DESTABILIZE (THE SITUATION), NOR (ON THE
OTHER HAND) SHOULD THEY WHO SEEK ONLY IMMOBILISM AND
TO DECEIVE."

7. EVERYONE WILL NOW BE WATCHING TO SEE WHETHER
TENSIONS CAN SUCCESSFULLY BE WOUND DOWN IN PAMPLONA,
AND HOW ETA AND/OR THE EXTREME RIGHT MAY ATTEMPT TO
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TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED
BY THE PAMPLONA TRAGEDY AND THE FALL-OUT FROM IT.
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Message Attributes

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